

Samuel Powel House  
244 So. Third Street  
Philadelphia (Society Hill)  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1359

HABS  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) POWEL, SAMUEL, HOUSE		HABS NO. PA-1359
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 244 So. Third Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1765	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the most important Georgian townhouses in Philadelphia. The house has been a much-written subject in popular publications, particularly in the mid-20th century. It is open to the public as a historic house museum.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with stone trim.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Dimensions: approx. 30' (three-bay front) X 50' with two- and three-story ell; three-and-a-half stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Doric frontispiece with fanlight and entrance steps; stone stringcourses; pair of front dormers with "Gothic" sash and gable roofs; double-hung sash windows with 12/12 lights and stone keystones; dentiled cornice on front facade only.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Notable paneled woodwork and plaster work, as exactly described in 1769 fire insurance survey (see HABS photographs for a visual observation). Original ballroom woodwork and plaster ceiling now at Philadelphia Museum of Art; original rear parlor woodwork now at Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (reproductions have been installed in the house).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Interior altered 1770 by Rob't. Smith, builder; Ground-story interior altered mid-19th century; interior elements removed 1921, 1925; restored 1931-33 by Louis Duhring, architect.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The original rear ell ("backbuilding" in the 18th century) was two stories high and measured 78' X 16'. Each floor numbered three rooms. Wainscoting, surbases, and cornices were used as trim.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard, <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. 1769 fire insurance survey for 244 South Third Street, name of company not known.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE June 26, 1984